

The Sun

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With the Tongue in the Cheek.

Having accumulated a sufficient mass of moral aspirations and confusing conjectures to obscure completely the few facts that have been spread before it, the special legislative committee to pass on police laws proposed for this town is about to return to Albany to lay the results of its labors before the members of the Senate and Assembly. Its programme of reform is represented as beginning with our vigorous old friend home rule, and ending with

"Curtailment of the Mayor's power of removal over the Police Commissioner."

"Increase in the pay of policemen: the \$500 stipend of the first year either to be increased voluntarily by the Board of Estimate or a mandatory increase made by the Legislature within a certain time."

Two excellent projects of "home rule" are these proposals. One of them would clip the power of the responsible, elective executive of the city, depriving him of a part of the authority he now exercises and reducing by exactly so much his responsibility for the protection of life and property. The other is a typical concession to the city: if it does not "voluntarily" increase the wages of its employees the State will do it by mandatory legislation.

Does a politician ever use the phrase "home rule" without putting his tongue in his cheek?

The United States as a Moral Factor.

By way of indicating generally his humane and generous idea of ideal of foreign policy, Mr. BRYAN refers to a speech of his at Indianapolis in 1900. One passage therein has a particularly vital and concrete meaning now:

"Behold a republic gradually but surely becoming the supreme moral factor in the world's progress, and the accepted arbiter in the world's disputes."

Allowing for all the poetry and passion and unconscious heightening of the orator, for all the patriotism of fact and rhetoric; translating or softening "the supreme moral factor" into a "moral factor," it is still impossible for those who know and admire Mr. BRYAN's moral earnestness and pacific purpose not to believe that, so far as his influence goes, the State Department and the Administration will insist that to figure without dishonor in any matter of national arbitration the United States must come before the world with clean hands; that a "moral factor," supreme or even mediocre, must itself be moral; that the repudiation of a treaty engagement is neither moral nor conducive to the settlement of the world's disputes.

It is not pride of authorship, we take it, that prompted Mr. BRYAN to this republication of his irene hopes and beliefs. It is rather notice to the Chauvinists who prefer a chance error of the Democratic platform to the obligation of a treaty that he believes that there should be equality of tolls for vessels passing through the Panama Canal, with a treaty right to such equality. The United States as an international malfactor would not appeal to Secretary BRYAN.

Illness as a Ground for Pardon.

There is a widely prevalent misapprehension as to the validity of serious illness as a reason for the exercise of executive clemency.

Take the case of a person who has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude and who has been sentenced to pay a fine and undergo a term of imprisonment. If the condition of his health is such that imprisonment will certainly kill him that fact is a legitimate reason for abating that part of the judgment. A convict ought not to be put to death for any crime that is not declared by law to be a capital offense.

A very different question is presented, however, in a case where an imprisoned convict seeks release from further incarceration on the ground that he is so ill that unless he is pardoned he is likely to die in prison. Here the plea for clemency is not based on the injurious physical effects of the imprisonment, but on the idea that it is a worse fate to die in prison than to die when at liberty.

So it undoubtedly is. But is not this precisely one of the consequences, when it occurs, that a man ought to suffer when he commits an offense, wrong in its very nature and harmful, perhaps productive of incalculable injury to his fellow men?

There is a good deal of morbid sentimentality on this subject. An offender who has wronged the community sufficiently to deserve imprisonment should be compelled to take the chance of death within the prison, just as he has

to take it wherever he may be. The fact that a stigma is attached to death in prison may be a deterrent element in the prevention of crime. At all events we have never been able to appreciate the logical force of the common assumption that the mere fact that a convict is likely to die before the expiration of his prison term constitutes a valid and unanswerable argument in favor of letting him out at once. So long as the continued imprisonment does not tend directly and certainly to shorten his life, the possibility or probability that he may die in jail should be deemed a matter of no consequence in the exercise of the pardoning power.

Indeed, there is no cause for personal or public regret, as we view the matter, in the likelihood that a villainous convict may die while in prison.

Cure for a Notoriously Wretched Public Service.

With the main problems involved in the extension of the New York transportation system disposed of, the members of the Public Service Commission now have time to consider and correct the deficiencies that to-day mark the operation of the elevated railroads and the surface lines of Manhattan and in Brooklyn. Existing conditions impose hardship on a multitude of people whose protection from inefficient and miserly management is one of the prime obligations of the Commission.

It is not necessary to catalogue the unnecessary inadequacies of these important transportation agencies. Literally hundreds of thousands of persons know them from experience. The number of cars run is insufficient for the reasonable accommodation of the public. The standard of operating efficiency, as evidenced by the treatment of passengers, has been lowered to a point at which, were the victims beasts, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals would interpose for the restraint of brutality.

There is no disposition on the part of the public to regard the surface lines as means of rapid transit, but it has a right to expect that the number of cars run shall be enough, within the capacity of each road, at least to mitigate the inconveniences that result from the present skimmed service. No man expects that during the period of lightest travel cars shall be run on the schedule prepared for the so-called rush hours, but every citizen properly demands that the franchise obligations of the companies shall be obeyed, and that the mere fact that one car may run unprofitably shall not be an excuse for inconveniencing and distressing without passengers. The inescapable blockades to be met in crowded streets are everywhere recognized, but they cannot be accepted as an excuse for unintelligent, slothful or chicanery administration of a public utilities corporation.

The regulation of the everyday activities of these corporations in the interest of the public is one of the prime duties of the Public Service Commission. Let it now exercise the privilege released from consideration of the subway contracts in the establishment of better conditions on the roads by which New York is served to-day.

Old and New.

Democratic politicians, be they State officeholders or members of the Congress or plain, old style, antiquated bosses, and be they of New York or anywhere else, will not be unduly impressed, depressed or elated by any reports from Washington or elsewhere that Mr. So and So is to be the oracle of the Administration in regard to appointments to Federal office, or that any original or ancillary power of determination in regard to what used to be called the Federal "patronage" is in the hands of any "patron" leader or select committeeman and trustee.

Mr. Wilson is a thorough believer in civil service reform. It is safe to say that he will not distribute offices according to the old gospel of patronage, that he will not make enemies for the sake of "satisfying" or "placating" anybody or for any other reason than the improvement of the service, that, as he has given notice to the granters and grantees of the rough, "it is his purpose and desire to devote his attention very earnestly and very constantly to the business of the Government and the large questions of policy affecting the whole nation," which has only the faintest interest in the passion of JONES, SMITH and ROBINSON for a job and a salary.

It is Mr. WILSON'S "intention to deal with appointments through the heads of the several Executive Departments." Brokers please notice.

Democrats who think there is any scope left for the ancient method of office broking have a good deal to learn. It is happily conceivable, indeed, that a man nurtured on the history of American institutions might have no deep respect for the abuse called "the courtesy of the Senate."

The New State Department and Mexico.

Secretary BRYAN offers the peroration of his speech accepting the Democratic nomination for President, in 1900 to express his views "on our national position." The passage is rhetorical, a conception "of a national destiny surpassing the glories of the present and the past," and standing alone it will yield no satisfaction to inquirers who want to get an inkling of Mr. BRYAN'S attitude toward the foreign relations of the Government, a really important matter, for the Secretary of State is the premier of the Cabinet, and his advice if adopted may make or mar an Administration and prove injurious to the country's interests. However, there is a passage in the speech of acceptance dealing with the independence of the Philippines that has a contemporary interest. Using the Mexican war to illustrate his "paramount issue"

Mr. BRYAN said:

"Our flag still floats over our dead in the American cemetery in the city of Mexico, but when the treaty of Mexico was signed American authority withdrew to the Rio Grande, and I venture the opinion that

during the last fifty years the people of Mexico have made more progress under the stimulus of independence and self-government than they would have made under a carpetbag Government held in place by bayonets. The United States and Mexico, friendly republics, are each stronger and happier than they would have been had the former been cursed and the latter crushed by an imperialistic policy disguised as benevolent assimilation."

It is singular that in connection with the withdrawal to the Rio Grande Mr. BRYAN did not remember a transaction that was in a way a parallel to the acquisition of the Philippines. The reference is to what was practically the purchase of Texas, New Mexico and upper California for \$15,000,000 from Mexico under the terms of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. At that time the people of those territories were chiefly Mexican, but their consent to be governed was not considered then, nor did Mr. BRYAN apparently give it a thought when thundering in the index about Philippine independence. The passage about Mexico in the Indianapolis speech bears, however, upon the attitude of the new Secretary of State toward interference in the affairs of that country. Evidently he would regard intervention as tending dangerously toward "an imperialistic policy" and therefore not to be thought of except under the compulsion of a state of anarchy that threatened the lives of American citizens. To Mr. BRYAN the United States and Mexico are "friendly republics" and should remain so. To get any significance from the eloquent extract quoted by him from his speech of acceptance in 1900 it must have a reflection cast upon it by some such passage as that referring to Mexico, Mr. BRYAN'S single reference to the Monroe Doctrine in that address is also helpful: "For three-quarters of a century the Monroe Doctrine has been a shield to neighboring republics, and yet it has imposed no pecuniary obligation upon us."

Profitable Baby Shows.

The conventional baby show at agricultural fairs and other public gatherings is repugnant to people of refinement because it has become a sensational mode of advertisement rather than a means of propaganda for beauty and its concomitant, health. The *Woman's Home Companion* for March describes a novel baby show which must produce the most beneficial results.

Contrary to the beauty shows in which judgment is pronounced under the influence of sentiment, caprice or favoritism, the new type of baby show is a contest for "points" of physical perfection to be ascertained by scientific tests that are infallible and infinitesimally subject to the personal equation. The State of Iowa, which is renowned for its high grade of farm products, animal and vegetable, has initiated a method of improving its highest and most valuable product, the baby, under the energetic guidance of two capable women, Mrs. MARY T. WATTS and Dr. MARGARET V. CLARK. In this contest the height, weight, circumference of chest and abdomen, symmetry, quality of skin, muscles, fat, size, length, circumference, etc., of head, shape of jaw and palate, condition of teeth and tonsils are scored, and in older children the disposition, alertness of attention and other psychological tests are added. The applicants were provided with blanks stating a description of age, mode of feeding and giving a brief history. The judges were physicians who were cautioned to count beauty only so far as it indicated health and they were to be guided by a standardization of points based upon that consideration.

The success of this novel kind of baby show was proved by a fivefold number of applicants for the second contest. The value of the instruction in feeding and other hygienic details to be derived from these contests cannot be overestimated. One illustration must suffice. A baby which would have won in a beauty contest but had lost entirely in the health contest of 1911 won the first prize in 1912 by reason of its intelligent parents having learned the defects of their previous management and having followed instructions for bettering these conditions.

A baby is after all a sweet little animal more subject to influences of its varying environment than is the farm animal, the mother of which is guided by imperative instinct in its feeding and care. The human infant is subject to the caprice, self-indulgence and neglect of the well-to-do mother, or to ignorance, poverty or neglect in the other classes. The personal equation plays the most important role, as recent investigations have sadly demonstrated. The latter are leading to enormous betterment of the conditions under which city babies are reared, but in the rural districts the practical and valuable substitute for welfare work, milk stations and lectures. To the farmer these contests have become familiar, and to him and his family they appeal with greater force than would all these. For city mothers, especially among hard working people, it would also be instructive to demonstrate by mathematical and scientific methods the physical superiority of the well-cared for baby.

See BRYAN—*Boston Globe*.
TAYLOR is hopeless.

Government depends more on men than on laws—*Mayor GAYNOR*.

True as gospel, but many excellent folks can never get the notion out of their heads that by changing the laws they change the men.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for one of the divisions in New York city and the clerk of Queens county make the taxpayers of New York pay for special drinking water for their use. So far as we have observed the vouchers sent to the

Finance Department they do not charge the wines or other liquors they consume to the city treasury.

Licensing cats.—*Utica Press*.
They have only too much political license already. If prohibition be out of the question, why not try local option?

One of our living ex-Presidents—we have two of them now, you know—*Hartford Courant*.

You know it, but one of the two living ex-Presidents doesn't.

It took the McLean bill for the protection of migratory birds to remind some of the Southern members of Congress of the old, forgotten, far off doctrine of State rights.

We must cease taxing one man for the benefit of another.—*St. Louis Republic*.

Then you are for the repeal of the oleomargarine act?

Politics and religion have run amuck of each other in the Indiana Legislature.—*San Antonio Light*.

And as usual Indiana religion was crested. Literature is the only conqueror of Hoosier politics.

It is the parents who must keep the schools up to the mark.—*Detroit Free Press*.

And it is the children who must keep parents up to the mark.

President GOMEZ this afternoon signed the general amnesty bill freeing all political offenders and agitators, despite the fact that the United States was advising against it.—*Despatch from Havana*.

The advice was good, but as a politician President GOMEZ apparently could not heed it. In the end Cuba will pay for the amnesty bill in the pernicious activity of the released demagogues and "patriots."

SHARON, Pa., March 7.—Shortly before school was over yesterday afternoon a large brown bear walked in at the front door of Miss LILLIAN GRAMAM school and sprang upon the fifty pupils. Miss GRAMAM attacked the animal with a poker and drove it out.—*THE EVENING SUN*.

And still there are men who say that woman's place is in the home!

Kentucky stands near the foot of list in automobile ownership.—*Courier-Journal*.

Is it the roads, or the desire of that handsome and stalwart race to fight?

Boy Journalists.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—The interesting letters in THE SUN on the boys of the '70s and the '80s who edited amateur newspapers prompt me to furnish a few names of those who made history in that little world known as amateur journalism. Dr. Charles W. Richardson of Washington, D. C., a prominent throat specialist, sent by the Pull committee to examine William Rockefeller, Charles C. Heuman of Brooklyn, a business associate of the Hon. William W. Wood of James F. Duhaney, related to the Senate of the State of New York; Frederic E. Lives, inventor of the photographing process; John F. Walsh, Jr., a prominent shipbuilder, whose father was a lifetime friend of Grover Cleveland; John E. Lavery, William C. Leary, Samuel J. Goldsmith, Abraham Hoff, T. Ludlow Chrysler of New York; Martin Lehman, James S. Caldwell of Baltimore; Charles W. Edmunds, Harry C. Hochstetler of Philadelphia and Mulford B. Taylor of Lancaster, Pa.

In the Government service: Henry T. Bryan, J. Edison Briggs, Clarence G. Allen, in Washington, D. C.; Correll Kendall, in Boston; Frank J. Martin and John Hovey, in New York. LOUIS KEMPER, 3 PHILADELPHIA, March 7.

A Business Woman on Suffrage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—She: These are some of the ideas of a business woman, which, she thinks, she has learned by observation, regarding suffrage and suffragettes, namely:

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SCHOOL TEACHING.

Good Old Fashioned Up-State Winters Ignorant of Furnace Heat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Reading in THE SUN the letter of "New Englander" comparing his steam heated apartments with his experiences in cold weather in his native place in New England, I was reminded of my youthful days up north, and it occurred to me that a winter's experience of mine might be of as much interest to your readers as were the experiences of "New Englander."

It was, they say up in the country, "going on" 18 years ago, when, at my father's request, I undertook to teach a country school several miles from my home. The school house was a typical little red school house. The pupils ranged from A. C. to D. C. Some of course were between 4 and 5 years old and others were 18 to 19 years old. The winter was one of the most severe that I ever encountered. Snow to the depth of over four feet covered the ground all winter and the drifts from time to time covered fences and rendered travel almost impossible. Zero weather prevailed most of the time. Readers of Edward Eggleston's "Hoosier Schoolboy" and "The Schoolmaster" will appreciate the situation where I had as a part of my duty to "board around," and you can imagine what this involved when I say that it required a week's stay in several houses some of which were two or more miles from the school house. I frequently plodded my way to and from the school house through fresh fallen snow to the depth of a foot or more, and again when the weather was so cold and the wind blew so hard that it seemed almost impossible to make any headway and the only way to keep from keeping from freezing to death was to keep moving.

I remember particularly at one house a large room farm house with a guest chamber in the northwest corner of the house, which I judge had been used for a long time as a winter house. It was not at all unusual experience.

In boarding around I had some amusing experiences. In one family, when tackling the bed, the housewife said, "I don't think I struck something hard, which I found to be a pig's tooth, and thus I learned that more kinds of meat than one could be used in making country mince pie."

Another place one of the school children made a mistake in the kitchen and made a hasty run for the kitchen and used the family wash basin and towel. This was not at all unusual experience.

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POETS AND POETRY.

How Changed From the Spontaneous Devility of Earlier Days.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Poets have changed; their lives are not at all what they used to be